Appl. No.: 10/771,622 Filed: February 5, 2004

Page 9



REMARKS

Claims 1-32 have been cancelled without prejudice of disclaimer. New Claims 33-81 have been added. Please enter this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment before calculating the claim fee. The new claims are fully supported by the specification, particularly on pages 4-11. The new claims are presented in order to complete the record for examination and not for reasons related to patentability.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

ter M. Tumphrey Registration No. 43,683

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200 Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at

Fox No. (703) 746-4060 on the date shown below.